

Origen Monsanto, interning in the office of Rep. DAVID SCOTT, attending Southern Polytechnic State University;

Kristopher Nicholas, interning in the office of Rep. ALCEE HASTINGS, attending Columbia University;

Matthew Norwood, interning in the office of Rep. JOHN LEWIS, attending Dartmouth College.

Jasmine Omeke, interning in the office of Rep. JESSE JACKSON JR., attending Harvard University.

Brittany Porter, interning in the office of Rep. FREDERICA WILSON, attending Hampton University;

Jeremy Ratcliff, interning in the office of Rep. EMANUEL CLEAVER, II, attending Livingstone College;

Amir Rowe, interning in the office of Rep. CHARLES RANGEL, attending St. John's University;

Shannon Schoultz, interning in the office of Rep. JAMES CLYBURN, attending American University;

Kaleese Shepperd, interning in the office of Rep. BOBBY L. RUSH, attending Western Illinois University;

Jason Sneed, interning in the office of Rep. KAREN BASS, attending University of Southern California;

Travis Stanislaus, interning in the office of Rep. EDOLPHUS TOWNS, attending Cornell University;

Jonathan Sykes, interning in the office of Rep. HANK JOHNSON, attending Fort Valley State University;

Rahel Tekola, interning in the office of Rep. SHEILA JACKSON LEE, attending Texas Tech University;

Terrence Threweatt Jr., interning in the office of Rep. ELIJAH CUMMINGS, attending St. Mary's College of Maryland;

Benjamin Turman, interning in the office of Rep. JOHN CONYERS, attending Hampton University.

TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE FIRST CLASS JOSE OSCAR BELMONTES

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to a hero from La Verne, California, Private First Class (PFC) Jose Oscar Belmontes, United States Army. Today I ask that the House of Representatives join me to honor and remember this incredible young man who died in service of our country.

PFC Belmontes was born in Riverside, California in 1984. He graduated from Polytechnic High School in 2002 and joined the Army in February 2011. After training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, he arrived at Fort Drum in July 2011. He was serving as a construction engineer with the 630th Engineer Company, 7th Engineer Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, which deployed to Afghanistan later that month. He died of injuries sustained from small arms fire in Wardak Province, Afghanistan on July 28, 2012 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. PFC Belmontes was 28 years old.

PFC Belmontes' fellow servicemen and women fondly remember him for his positive

attitude; Belmontes was known for stepping up to the plate and helping out whenever he was needed. PFC Belmontes accomplished so much during his short time and he will be dearly missed by his unit and all who knew him. PFC Belmontes served honorably, earning many awards and decorations including the Purple Heart, the Army Achievement Medal, the Afghanistan Campaign Medal with one star, the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Service Ribbon and the Combat Action Badge. He is survived by his wife, mother, and father.

As we look at the incredibly rich military history of our country we realize that this history is comprised of men, just like PFC Belmontes, who bravely fought for the ideals of freedom and democracy. Each story is unique and humbling for those of us who, far from the dangers they have faced, live our lives in relative comfort and ease. The day the Belmontes family learned of their husband and son's death was probably the hardest day they have ever faced and our thoughts, prayers and deepest gratitude for their sacrifice go out to them. There are no words that can relieve their pain and what words we can offer only begin to convey our deep respect and highest appreciation.

PFC Belmontes' family have all given a part of themselves in the loss of their loved one and we hope they know that the goodness he brought to this world and the sacrifice he has made, will never be forgotten.

IN HONOR OF THE HITCHCOCK CENTER FOR WOMEN

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Hitchcock Center for Women, HCFW, for 30 years of dedicated service to thousands of women and their families in Cleveland, OH.

The mission of the Hitchcock Center is to holistically empower women to achieve and maintain productive, chemical-free lives. The Hitchcock Center is "the place where healing begins" for women who are in need of help.

The founder of the Hitchcock Center is Jayne Mazzerella, who realized that women recover differently from chemical substances than men. She founded Merrick Hall, a 4-bed treatment program for female alcoholics, which led to the beginnings of the Hitchcock Center.

The Hitchcock Center is now the largest agency of its kind in the Greater Cleveland area. To date, it has provided services to approximately 13,000 women and their families. The Hitchcock Center recently announced its planned expansion of the Traditional Housing and Recovery Management services, which strives to return families back into the community. They eventually seek to expand into even more communities.

Today, there are 53 women who work for the Hitchcock Center. There are also many alumnae of the program who return to volunteer for the center through the HCFW Alumnae Council. Together, they have proven success in helping women to grow and recover so they can go back to their families and homes as whole and healed persons.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honoring the HCFW of Cleveland, OH, for all of their dedication and service to the community.

IN RECOGNITION OF EUGENE MORGAN WELSH

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the late Eugene Morgan Welsh. Gene passed away peacefully on July 25, 2012. Staff Sgt. Gene Welsh was a true American hero and served his country with pride and dedication.

Eugene "Gene" Morgan Welsh was born May 9, 1925 in McAllister, OK to William Morgan Welsh and Tina Pearl Welsh. Gene had two brothers, Kenneth and Billy Welsh, who preceded him in death, brother Don and a sister Wanda Griffith.

Proudly at age 18, Gene joined the U.S. Army's 19th Infantry Regiment during World War II. Staff Sgt. Welsh's assignment took him to the South Pacific. While serving in the Asiatic Pacific, Staff Sgt. Welsh was wounded in combat and was eventually awarded the Purple Heart with the Oak Leaf Cluster.

While recovering from his injuries, Gene started writing to a Pen Pal, Miss Bettye Cavazos from Sharyland, TX. This was the bright spot during his recovery and he often told her in his letters that if he ever made it out of the war alive he was going to come back to the U.S. and marry her. Upon completion of his military career, he in fact went to Texas and asked for her hand in marriage. Flag Day, June 14, 1946, Bettye Cavazos became Mrs. Eugene Welsh; that same year they moved to Ceres, CA. Gene eventually opened up a business in 1967 that is known today as Ceres ProTow and it is still located at the same place 45 years later. Gene and Bettye had two sons, Mike and Ron. Gene was very proud of his sons and was devastated when Ron passed away from a pulmonary embolism. Mike continues to run the family business.

Gene had a great love for his community and was very active with many social and charitable as well as civic organizations. In 1987, Gene was awarded Rotarian of the Year and in 1988 he was awarded Ceres Citizen of the Year and in 2003 he was awarded the Stanislaus County Senior Citizen of the Year. Gene also had a love of Square Dancing, and taught beginner Square Dance lessons and eventually formed the Ceres Twisters where he was the club caller for over 40 years. Gene and Bettye were always happy to share their love of Square Dancing with others and provided demonstrations to Ceres and Modesto grammar schools and convalescent homes and they danced at local, state and national festivals as well as on cruise ships.

Gene is survived by his wife of 66 years Bettye, son Mike and his wife Maureen, daughter-in-law Sherry and 8 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren and one great-great grandson.

Mr. Speaker, the recognition that I am offering today before the House of Representatives for Eugene Morgan Welsh is small compared